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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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State Board Approves Vocational Education Plans

The dollar investment in vocational education in Texas is expected to rise 38 percent in the next five years, according to projections contained in the Five Year and Annual Vocational Education Program Plans, approved June 11 by the State Board of Education.

Federal, state, and local dollars spent on voc-ed in Texas are projected to rise from \$296.4 million in 1977-78 to \$478 million in 1982. The increase is attributed to a projected rise in enrollments and inflation.

The number of people enrolled in voc-ed is expected to increase from the current 970,000 students to 1.3 million in 1982.

Despite the increases in enrollments and expenditures, the number of men and women equipped with voc-ed skills will continue to fall short of the manpower needs projected by the Texas Employment Commission, says Cadar Parr, Texas Education Agency associate commissioner for occupational education and technology.

The need for workers with vocationally related skills will top 230,000 a year by 1982; however, the supply of persons with vocational skills from public supported programs will total about 162,000 a year by that time, says Parr.

Projections on the number of persons completing non-public voc-ed related programs is not known; however, Parr feels that whatever the number, the overall supply (public and private) would still trail the demand by a considerable margin.

The five year and annual program plans, which are combined into a single comprehensive document, are a

departure from past years.

"We used to send a single one year plan with a five year projection to the



Cadar Parr
supply still trailing demand

U.S. Office of Education (USOE)," Parr says. "Now we are required by federal law to assemble data in much more detail in order to project both needs and expected results for each of the coming five years."

Parr also noted that this year the plans place special emphasis on providing equal access to voc-ed programs for both women and men.

The vocational plans document is now being forwarded to the USOE for its approval. The document will not be printed and disseminated to local school officials until after USOE approval. Dissemination may not begin until January.

TEA is presently developing a "mini-plan," for dissemination this fall, which will highlight the overall document.

Carter Committed to Education Although He Hasn't Said Much

President Carter is committed to education even though he hasn't said much about it so far, Dr. Elizabeth Abramowitz told national and state vocational education advisory council members recently in Washington, D.C.

The President's education policy is not developed, but it is being developed, said Abramowitz. Carter's lack of comment on education "doesn't mean a lack of commitment," she said, but is a result of the multitude of other issues clamoring for attention.

Insofar as voc-ed is concerned, the White House staff has been looking at five issues in particular, Abramowitz said. They are the tracking of students

into vocational programs which often don't lead to jobs; sex discrimination and the Federal role in combatting it, equalization of voc-ed programs within states; the long-term employability of voc-ed graduates; and the connection between education and work.

Abramowitz said closer ties between manpower and voc-ed programs are necessary, but agreed with critics that those linkages are "weak" in Carter's youth employment bill. While she couldn't say for sure, Abramowitz said she had a "hunch" that the thinking behind the administration's youth bill was that "schools have

(See CARTER, page 2)

USDOL Issuing Highest Demand Occupations List

The U.S. Department of Labor has begun issuing a monthly listing of occupations in highest demand in the public employment service Job Banks around the nation, according to an article in the Manpower and Vocational Education Weekly.

The first listing, published on June 24, covers the previous month and shows 105 high demand occupations among the 460,000 full-time openings on the job service computers.

USDOL officials call the new bulletin "the first large scale national effort designed specifically to tell job seekers and young people preparing to enter the labor market what jobs are available, what they pay, and where they

are located."

The Job Bank system operates in nearly every state and though it doesn't list all the available job openings in the economy, it is the federal government's most up-to-date resource of occupational information.

Texas has six job banks, located in Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Austin, and Beaumont/Port Arthur/Orange.

The new bulletin identifies occupations for which there has been a "continuing" high demand, identifies where larger numbers of openings in selected occupations are located; provides data on the total number of Job Bank openings during the previous

month along with the average wage for each selected occupation; and highlights about 15 occupations in demand in almost every area.

From time to time, the bulletin may list occupations in which opportunities aren't good at all.

Among the high-demand occupations in May were auto mechanics, carpenters, secretaries, clerks, and insurance sellers.

Copies of "Occupations in Demand at Job Service Offices" are available at most job banks.

Hinckley Elected President of Communicators Group

Carolyn Hinckley, an educational writer with the Texas Education Agency, has been elected president of the National Association of Vocational-Technical Education Communicators.

The announcement was made during the June 6-9 NAVTEC Conference held in Minneapolis. She took office on July 1.

Hinckley, a journalist, has been with TEA's Division of Occupational Education and Technology since 1974.

NAVTEC, formed in 1974 to foster professional development activities among voc-ed communicators, has members from 39 states who are public information writers; information specialists; research and technical information disseminators; and directors of public information activities.

(CARTER, continued from page 1)

botched things up — let's go and save them."

In her remarks, Abramowitz said that vocational educators should not look for "massive increases" in education funding in general. Emphasis by the Carter administration will be on how well Federal dollars are spent and whether small increases in funding produce measurable improvements in student performance.



Mahon Cited for Voc-Ed Support

U.S. Rep. George Mahon of Lubbock (second from left) was presented a citation recently from the American Vocational Association in recognition of his congressional leadership in support of vocational education. Mahon is dean of the Congress and is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Looking on are (l-r) Lowell Burkett, AVA's executive director; Gene Bottoms (AVA president); and ACTVE Executive Director Alton Ice. The Texas Vocational-Technical Association also presented to Rep. Mahon an inscribed pen and pencil desk set in appreciation of his support to voc-ed over the years.

Career Education Valuable to Humanistic Attitude

Career education can be a valuable tool for developing an education system in America that is global in perspective and humanistic in attitude, says Larry Bailey, a member of the National Advisory Council for Career Education.

Bailey set forth this idea in a

recently published monograph, entitled "Career and Vocational Education in the 1980's: Toward a Process Approach." He developed the monograph under a grant from the Illinois Office of Education.

Among the topics he deals with are the historical pursuit of purpose for

education, developing an "outcomes orientation" in career education, the case for "process education" and its integration with career education.

A professor in the Southern Illinois University Occupational Education Program, Bailey defines process educa-

(See CAREER-ED, page 4)

ACTIVE Happenings

ACTIVE ELECTS OFFICERS

Dorothy R. Robinson of Palestine and Bill Elkins of Dallas were elected to third consecutive one-year terms as chairman and vice-chairman of the ACTIVE, at a June 23-24 meeting in Waco.

Robinson is a veteran of over 46 years in the public schools having retired in 1974. She is a former home economics teacher, coordinator of special education, and an elementary school principal.

Although retired, Robinson still rises early to work with and support programs directed at the needs of physically and mentally handicapped children.

Elkins is the founder and chairman emeritus of Elkins Institute, Inc., a network of electronics institutes operating in several states. He is president of Vocational Education Consultants in Dallas, and is also heavily involved in working with the handicapped.

Robinson and Elkins began their third one-year terms on July 1. The ACTIVE was established under federal and state laws in 1968-69 to advise the State Board of Education and report to the Governor on the vocational, technical, manpower, and adult education needs of Texas.



Dorothy Robinson
re-elected chairman



Bill Elkins
re-elected vice-chairman

AUGUST MEETING SET

The ACTIVE will hold a regular meeting August 16 at the

Ramada Inn (North) in Austin.

Among the items on the agenda will be a review of the ACTIVE's proposed 8th report to the State Board of Education.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by writing or calling the ACTIVE office.

GOVERNOR'S PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

A report on the Governor's Conference on Technical-Vocational Education, held February 15-16 in Austin, has been published by the ACTIVE.

The report contains the keynote addresses delivered by Lt. Governor Bill Hobby; State Representative Frank Gaston; John Poerner, director of the Governor's Office of Educational Resources; and Walter Kerr, a member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education.

Also contained in the report is an extensive review of what was said in each of the conference's nine workshops. The workshop topics relate to: funding; program effectiveness; delivery systems; career decisions; adult education and special services; data and information systems; parenthood education; advisory committees; and student viewpoints.

Limited copies are available from the ACTIVE News.

Bottoms Named New AVA Executive Director

Gene Bottoms, director of the Division of Program and Staff Development with the Georgia State Department of Education in Atlanta, has been named executive director of the American Vocational Association.

Bottoms will take up residence in Washington, D.C. on October 1, succeeding Lowell A. Burkett, who is retiring as the chief executive officer of the 55,000 member organization.

The appointment was announced on June 13 by the AVA Board of

(CAREER-ED, continued from page 3)

tion as "a humanistic view of education which focuses on the learner and the development of those skills which are believed to be central and important to functioning in the reality of present and future decades."

Single copies of the monograph are available free from: Larry J. Bailey, Occupational Education Program, School of Technology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

Directors. Burkett will serve as a consultant to Bottoms for an indefinite period.

Bottoms, who completed a term as AVA president on July 1, began his career in the Georgia public school system in 1957 as an elementary school principal and teacher.

In 1961, he joined the staff of the South Georgia Technical and Vocational School. Since then he has



Gene Bottoms
succeeding Lowell Burkett

worked with the Georgia Department of Education as state supervisor of vocational guidance and associate state director of vocational education.

In his present role of director of the Division of Program and Staff Development in Georgia, Bottoms has worked with vocational education in staff development, teacher education and certification, student assessment, and program development and improvement activities. He serves as state coordinator of career education.

Will Reece, editor: **ACTIVE NEWS** is published monthly by the Advisory Council for Technical Vocational Education in Texas. It is the purpose of this newsletter to promote technical, vocational, adult, and manpower education, and to establish better lines of communications between business, industry, and education. Reader's comments are invited.

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